

# THE CARGO COURIER

123rd Airlift Wing, Kentucky Air National Guard, Louisville, Ky.

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## Tonini selected as new adjutant general



### PA troop is 2nd Airman ever to lead Ky. Guard

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Retired Brig. Gen. Edward Tonini, who served as a career public affairs officer in the Kentucky Air Guard before rising to become its chief of staff, will be the state's next adjutant general, Gov.-elect Steve Beshear announced at a news conference Nov. 28.

When he is sworn into office and promoted to major general shortly after midnight on Tuesday, General Tonini will become just the second Air Guardsman in Kentucky history to hold the post of adjutant general.

The only other bluesuiter to lead Kentucky's Army and Air National Guard forces was Maj. Gen. Richard L. Frymire, who held the post from 1971 to 1977.

General Tonini said he will be taking charge of a National Guard organization that is among the best in the nation.

"I will inherit a Kentucky National Guard that is in exceptionally good shape, with solid leadership and many nationally recognized best practices," he said. "I hope to learn from these practices and use creative approaches to build on our current success.

"I have always believed that mid-level enlisted Soldiers and Airmen are the heart and soul of the Guard. We have to do every

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## Wing begins multiple deployments to Germany

### Airlift mission supports U.S. operations in Iraq

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Two Kentucky Air Guard C-130s and 51 Guardsmen from the 123rd Airlift Wing deployed to Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Nov. 26 in support of Operation Joint Enterprise.

The airmen will fly airlift missions across Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia, including sorties into Iraq and Afghanistan, said Lt. Col. Mark Heiniger, commander of the Kentucky Air Guard's 165th Airlift Squadron.

The deployment constitutes the first wave of Kentucky aircrews, maintenance personnel and support troops who are slated to participate in the mission through March 7, when the wing's role is expected to conclude.



Tech. Sgt. Philip Speck/KyANG

Fifty-one members of the 123rd Airlift Wing board a Kentucky Air Guard C-130 on the base flightline Nov. 26. The Airmen are bound for Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from which they will fly airlift sorties to locations in Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia.

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# Your drive for excellence over the past year forms the fabric and strength of the wing

*"The strength of the Pack is the Wolf, and the strength of the Wolf is the Pack."*

Stirring words by poet Rudyard Kipling. When spoken, they bring a surety that, as he puts it, is as "old and as true as the sky."

A banner year for the 123rd Airlift Wing draws to a close, and if I might borrow from Mr. Kipling, I would tell you that the "Strength of the Wing is in the Airman, and the Strength of the Airman is in the Wing."

The 123rd was honored this year to be the recipient of the coveted Curtis N. "Rusty" Metcalf Award as the top airlift wing in the Air National Guard.

That would not have been possible without the collective efforts and superb performances of so many members of this organization. It is your drive for excellence and the desire to settle for nothing less that have set you apart for distinction among your peers.

Though far too numerous to mention all, some of the stand-out performers were:

- Senior Airman Brittany Ingram, who was named the Air Force Air Reserve Component Services Airman of the year
- Senior Airman Ray Graves, who earned the Leadership Award at Airman Leadership School and was named 123rd Airlift Wing Honor Guard Member of the Year
- Tech. Sgt. Wendy Haight, who was named ANG Services NCO of the Year and ANG Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year
- Tech. Sgt. Eric Hamilton, who earned the title of Distinguished Graduate at the Non-



**Col. Mark Kraus**  
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

Commissioned Officer Academy

- Chief Master Sgt. Dee Riggle, who received the National Guard Enlisted Association's "Minuteman Award"
- 2nd Lt. James Embry, who received the Citizen Soldier Award at the Academy of Military Science (AMS)
- 2nd Lt. Scott Benningfield, who was a Distinguished Graduate at AMS
- Capt. Dale Greer, who captured top honors for the Cargo Courier and third place as Print Journalist of the Year in the National

Guard Bureau Media Contest

- Capt. Elizabeth Krauss, who earned Distinguished Graduate honors at personnel school
- And Capt. Mary Decker, who was selected as the 2007 Lance P. Sijan Leadership Award winner.
- Unit awards include the 123rd Military Personnel Flight's Gerrit D. Foster Outstanding MPF Achievement Award, the 123rd Services Squadron's Air National Guard Outstanding Services Flight Award and the 123rd Security Forces Squadron's title as Headquarters U.S. Air Force Outstanding Security Forces Squadron.

These and literally hundreds of other examples of individual courage, dedication, professionalism and sacrifice over this past year tell the stories of your commitment to the nation at war.

When woven together, they become the fabric and the "Strength of the Wing."

My pledge is to continue to provide you with the training and the tools that will allow you to continue to build on these successes and your tremendous talent.

This holiday season as you rest and relax with your families, let me also encourage you to take some time and reflect on the past year and remember your accomplishments. You have done very well indeed.

I could not be more proud of you, and I look forward to serving alongside you during the challenging year ahead.

Here's wishing to each of you and your families a safe — and a very merry — Christmas and a happy new year!

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Deadline for the next issue is Jan. 31.

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An electronic version of the Cargo Courier is available at the Kentucky Air Guard's Web site — [www.kyang.ang.af.mil](http://www.kyang.ang.af.mil)

## Ky. State Parks offering discounts to military, retirees

Active and retired members of the military can take advantage of discount rates with the Kentucky State Parks' USA Military Pass program through March 31.

The program is available to active-duty military members, National Guardsmen, Reservists and military retirees. Proof of service is required.

With the USA Military Pass, lodge rooms are available for \$44.95 a night, one-bedroom cottages for \$74.95 a night, two-bedroom cottages for \$84.95 a night and three-bedroom cottages for \$94.95 a night, plus tax.

The discount is based on availability and may exclude special events and holidays.

"We are happy to offer this discount to those who have given so much back to our country and commonwealth," Parks Commissioner J.T. Miller said.

Kentucky State Parks has 17 resorts that offer golf, fishing, hiking on scenic trails, beautiful scenery and full-service restaurants.

Many resorts are near or include historic sites and museums, and offer programs during the fall and winter such as elk tours, eagle watching and nature programs.

For more information, go to [www.parks.ky.gov](http://www.parks.ky.gov) or call 1 (800) 255-7275.

## Tickets available for Lincoln bicentennial event

Ticket packages are now available for events that will kick off the national Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commemoration in Louisville and Hodgenville, Ky., on Feb 11 and 12.

For more information, visit [www.lincolnbicentennial.gov](http://www.lincolnbicentennial.gov).

## Guard Greeting



Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

President Bush greets supporters and members of the Kentucky Air National Guard on the base flightline during a visit to Louisville Nov. 13. Mr. Bush was in town to address a group of civic leaders, and the Air Guard base served as a staging area for Air Force One during his visit.

## Security Forces top unit in NGB

By Capt. Dale Greer  
Wing Public Affairs Officer

The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Security Forces Squadron has been named the top security unit in the entire National Guard. The squadron was awarded the 2007 National Guard Bureau Outstanding Security Forces Unit of the Year Award for its excellent performance at home and abroad, said Capt. Mary Decker, unit commander.

The award recognizes the squadron's accomplishments during the 2006 calendar year, when dozens of members deployed to multiple locations around the world, including Nevada, Alaska, Iraq and Kyrgyzstan.

For example, nearly 40 percent of the unit deployed to locations along the U.S.-Mexican border in 2006 in support of Operation Jump Start, the National Guard-led mission to improve American border security.

Squadron Airmen also assisted Kentucky Army Guard Soldiers and the Kentucky State Police with drug interdiction efforts, seizing 500,000 marijuana plants with a

street value of more than \$1 billion, Captain Decker said.

Overseas, unit members deployed to Balad, Iraq, where they secured 20 square miles of property at the nation's busiest aerial port and established a 20-mile security perimeter to protect 25,000 U.S. forces.

The Airmen also provided air-tight security for 12 visiting dignitaries and guarded numerous F-16s, C-5s and helicopters that were vital to mission effectiveness.

The unit also deployed an Airman to Camp Bucca, Iraq, where more than 8,000 detainees are held in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, the Airman was responsible for supervising security operations that processed 5,260 detainees.

In Kyrgyzstan, deployed Kentucky troops developed an anti-terrorism plan that is now used as a theater benchmark.

"The men and women of the 123rd Security Forces Squadron are truly deserving of this award because of their continued hard work, dedication and sacrifice," Captain Decker said. "It's an outstanding unit."

# UPS, Humana supporting reservists

Staff report

Two Louisville-based companies have pledged to offer extensive support of employees who serve in the National Guard and Reserves, the Kentucky Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve announced on Nov. 12

UPS Airlines and Humana have signed 5-Star Statements of Support for reservists, the highest level of commitment recognized by the ESGR.

A 5-Star organization pledges to train supervisors on the effective management of employees who serve in the military and to provide support that goes “above and beyond” what is required under federal law, according to Tom Baker, ESGR state chairman.

They may, for example, continue health benefits for deployed employees or agree to cover pay differences if an employee experiences a shortfall while on active duty, Mr. Baker said.

**ESGR state chairman Tom Baker (far left) and Kentucky’s assistant adjutant general for Air, Brig. Gen. Howard Hunt (second from right), present UPS Operations Manager Rick Barr with a framed 5-Star Statement of Support on Nov. 12 as Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing, looks on.**



Army 1st Lt. Steve Martin/KyARNG

**Kentucky’s adjutant general, Army Maj. Gen. Donald Storm (far right), joins ESGR state chairman Tom Baker (far left) in presenting Humana Military Healthcare Services president and CEO Dave Baker with a 5-Star Statement of Support on Nov. 12.**



Capt. Dale Greer/KyANG

# Germany

Continued from Front Page

Two additional Kentucky C-130s and six more rotations of KyANG Airmen are scheduled to leave for Germany in the next three months, bringing the total number of deploying wing troops to about 360.

Each deployment rotation is scheduled to last approximately two weeks, Colonel Heiniger said.

Operation Joint Enterprise is similar to several other airlift missions supported by Kentucky Air Guardsmen in the past decade.

It grew out of the now-defunct, Ramstein-based Operation Joint Forge, which was created in the mid-1990s to fly troops and supplies into Bosnia-Herzegovina in support of U.S. military operations there.

That mission eventually expanded to support operations across Europe and, more recently, activities in Africa and the Central Command Area of Responsibility, which includes Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Kentucky Air Guard has now sent Airmen and aircraft to Germany more than a half-dozen times since the 1990s to support Operation Joint Enterprise and its predecessor campaigns, each time staffing the deployments with an all-volunteer cadre of troops, according to Col. Mark Kraus, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

The latest mission is no exception.

“Everyone who is deploying for this mission volunteered for the job,” Colonel Kraus noted. “Some of our people will even be deployed over the Christmas holiday.

“I think that says something about the caliber of people we have in the wing. Our Airmen continue to step up and volunteer for missions any time they’re needed, anywhere in the world.

“That’s a truly remarkable level of dedication, and it’s the right thing to do. I couldn’t be more proud of them for their commitment to the mission.”

# Tonini named new AG

Continued from Front Page

thing we can to provide the support that allows them to prosper. If leadership can meet their expectations, we are almost assured that the overall goals of the Guard will be realized.

“I believe excellence perpetuates more excellence. The record shows we have a terrific foundation to build on.”

General Tonini noted that the support of families and civilian employers is crucial to the Guard’s success as Reservists are asked to deploy more often, and he will stress the continuation of efforts to foster strong relationships with those communities.

“I believe that our Soldiers’ and Airmen’s support systems — their spouses, children, mothers and fathers, employers and communities — need to be considered as part of the Guard family,” he said.

“If we communicate effectively and provide them with support as family members, we’ll be able to keep key members in the organization despite asking more from them than ever before.”

General Tonini will succeed Army Maj. Gen. Donald T. Storm, whom he praised for four years of outstanding leadership during a time of steadily increasing operational demands on the National Guard.

“General Storm led the Kentucky National Guard during the most demanding period in history,” he said. “During his tenure, Soldiers and Airmen were mobilized almost 11,000 times to answer the call to defend our nation in the Global War on Terror. More than 9,200 of these mobilizations resulted in Kentuckians being deployed overseas, often on their second and third tours.

“Their spectacular record in combat is a direct reflection of General Storm’s inspiring leadership.”

As Kentucky’s 52nd adjutant general, General Tonini will command the 8,450 military members of the Kentucky Army and Air National Guard. He also will oversee the statewide Division of Emergency Management, the Capitol City Airport in Frankfort, Ky., a youth-development program at Fort Knox, Ky., and the Bluegrass Station Division, a former military depot in Avon, Ky., that is being converted for use as a light industrial park.

The cabinet-level post administers an annual budget of approximately \$350 million to support operations at 54 armories, three major training sites and the Air National Guard air base at Louisville International Airport.

General Tonini brings a wealth of experience to the job, including a two-year tour of duty at the Pentagon as creator and director of the Your Guardians of Freedom program.

The program, which has been described as one of the most successful grass-roots outreach efforts in the history of the Department of Defense, automated a process by which unit commanders could send personalized letters of thanks to the family members and civilian employers of Guardsmen and Reservists who were called to active duty following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The mailings included posters, patches and lapel pins so parents, spouses and employers could show their support of military personnel engaged in the Global War on Terror.

The campaign, which General Tonini originated at the Air Guard level before taking it to Air Force Headquarters, inspired thousands of employers to write to the secretary of the Air Force and Air Force chief of staff, pledging support for their activated and deployed



**Brig. Gen. Edward Tonini created the Your Guardians of Freedom program for the Air National Guard, but its success led to Air Force-wide adoption.**

employees, General Tonini said.

It had such an impact on the morale and welfare of Airmen that General Tonini was recognized with a Distinguished Service Medal, the Air Force’s highest non-combat honor.

General Tonini first joined the military in 1969 as an enlisted information technician for the Kentucky Air Guard’s 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. He received a commission in 1970 and served as an information officer for the Louisville-based 165th Tactical Reconnaissance Group until 1972.

Aside from a brief tenure as a base fuels management officer, General Tonini spent the next 24 years in public affairs, eventually being named chief of public affairs at KyANG state headquarters.

In 1996, he became the first career public affairs officer in the Air National Guard to be named a state chief of staff, a post he held until his temporary retirement from the Kentucky Air Guard in November 2003.

In civilian life, General Tonini has spent his entire professional career working in radio and television program production, promotion and sales. Much of the time was spent in live television production, including credits with ABC, NBC, CBS, ESPN, HBO and others. His experience ranges from presidential debates to heavyweight championship fights and college football bowl games.

Most recently, General Tonini has been involved in the production of original programming as president and CEO of Louisville Productions. His company has produced five programs that enjoyed national distribution on PBS.

General Tonini and his wife of 34 years, Carol Z. Tonini, have two married children.

Son David practices law and lives in Denver with his wife, Suzanne, and son, Ethan. He also is a lieutenant commander in the Naval Reserve.

Daughter Kathleen is a doctor of physical therapy and lives in Hilton Head, S.C., with her husband, Dr. Ted Porada.

# ANG breaks ground for readiness center

Expanded facility will centralize 9 directorates under a single roof

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith  
American Forces Press Service

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. — Officials broke ground here Nov. 19 on a \$52 million expansion of the Air National Guard Readiness Center.

When completed, the four-story complex of shining glass and steel will unite the existing ANGRC here with its Air Guard offices in Arlington, Va.

Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Air National Guard director, said the expansion on Andrews reflects new realities in force protection since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

“The reason we are here today is that, after 9/11, force protection became a major issue, especially in the city,” he said.

He explained that the Base Realignment and Closure Commission moved government offices at risk of terrorist attack away from downtown areas.

An added benefit from the project is that the Air Guard will have all nine of its directorate offices under one roof. The directorates serve the Air Guard’s day-to-day operations of 88 flying units and more than 200 geographically separated units.

“It will give the commander of the ANGRC a chance to have a span of control over all the people that work for him, and it will streamline and make more orderly the process of command,” General McKinley said.

The centralized ANGRC campus will be occupied by more than 1,100 Airmen and federal employees by September 2011. Clarke Construction of Bethesda, Md., has the contract for the expansion.

“It will be one the most sustainable and energy efficient (buildings) that the Air Guard has built to date,” said Ben Lawless, chief of the engineering division in the Air Guard’s Installation and Mission Support Directorate.

Energy-saving features include interior



Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith/USAF

**From left: Lt. Gen. R. Craig McKinley, director of the Air National Guard; retired Lt. Gen. John Conaway, former director of the Air National Guard and chief of the National Guard Bureau; Col. Joe Lengyel, Air National Guard Readiness Center commander; Air National Guard Command Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith; and J.L. Herndon break ground on an Air National Guard Readiness Center expansion project at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.**

lighting that will adjust automatically with the amount of natural daylight. Storm water will be recycled and filtered through a special drainage system before it’s discharged. Air conditioning and heating controls will be located at work stations and fed underneath the floor, which, officials said, provides better occupant comfort and energy efficiency.

Officials will have the project certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a nationally accepted benchmark for green buildings.

“It’s going to set the example for energy conservation, which is really important to everyone,” Mr. Lawless said. “I think it’s also going to set the tone for the future of the Air Guard in terms of facilities that can be reconfigured for new occupants and new missions and functions.”

Mr. Lawless explained that moveable

wall partitions will allow occupants to simply reconfigure their office space to meet future mission requirements. Officials also hope to lay out an open working environment that fosters teamwork.

The new building will be landscaped with a variety of native plants and trees, and it will be next to Conaway Hall, the existing ANGRC building.

Conaway Hall opened in 1985 and was renamed in 1991 after retired Lt. Gen. John Conaway.

General Conaway, who attended the groundbreaking ceremony, is a former officer in the Kentucky Air National Guard who rose to become director of the Air National Guard and chief of the National Guard Bureau.

He helped advocate for the ANGRC’s original construction. Prior to that, the initial activation of an Air Guard support center was in 1976.

## GI Mail offers safer way to stay in touch

Global Internet Mail is a secure e-mail program available to all servicemembers that can be used from any computer with Internet access, including government systems.

While official government e-mail accounts are the most secure, messages sent between GI Mail accounts are more secure than those sent between public e-mail accounts, officials said.

“GI Mail offers an added layer of ‘protection’ to military service members and is the Department of Defense preferred alternative to commercial e-mail services,” said Master Sgt. Jeffery Bricker, 52nd Fighter Wing Operations Security program manager.

Commercial e-mail services, such as Yahoo!, Hotmail and AOL are outside of the DoD’s control, and the confidentiality of forwarded e-mails cannot be guaranteed.

“These services are hosted on non-Air Force systems and could be compromised without the knowledge of military users,” Sergeant Bricker said.

On the other hand, GI Mail offers similar services and operates behind a firewall at Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

GI mail is also available to spouses who are registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System.

“When deployed down range, government computers can not be used to access Yahoo!, Hotmail or AOL, so GI Mail is the perfect solution,” Sergeant Bricker said.

“Spouses are able to communicate on a much safer system and know it is much less likely that their e-mails are getting into the wrong hands.”

For more information about GI Mail and how to get an account, visit <https://www.gimail.af.mil/>.

# Reaper living up to its name in the skies over Afghanistan

## Unmanned aerial vehicle drops precision munitions

By Staff Sgt. Trevor Tiernan  
U.S. Central Command Air Forces

SOUTHWEST ASIA — The MQ-9A Reaper demonstrated its unique precision strike capability as a hunter-killer attack platform by dropping its first precision-guided bomb Nov. 7.

“The beauty of the MQ-9 Reaper is that we’re able to synchronize and integrate unmanned aerial attack platforms over the skies of Afghanistan, allowing us to persistently and consistently track the enemy and ensure that we place the appropriate ordnance on target when required, and maintain that persistent presence after weapons release,” said Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Central Command Air Forces commander.

The Reaper, the Air Force’s unmanned aerial attack vehicle, was operating over the Sangin region of Afghanistan on the

hunt for enemy activity when the crew received a request for assistance from a joint terminal attack controller on the ground. Friendly forces were taking fire from enemy combatants. The JTAC provided targeting data to the pilot and sensor operator, who fly the aircraft remotely from Creech Air Force Base, Nev. The pilot released two GBU-12 500-pound laser-guided bombs, destroying the target and eliminating the enemy fighters.

The ability to carry bombs, in addition to AGM-114K Hellfire missiles, is just one of the features that set the Reaper apart from its smaller brother, the MQ-1 Predator.

“The MQ-9 gives us an incredible addition to the arsenal,” General North said. “It’s larger, carries an increased payload and is able to fly longer, higher and faster. It’s an incredible addition to our attack capability in the CENTAF force lay-down.”

The Reaper has flown 49 combat sorties since it first began operating in Afghanistan Sept. 25. It completed its first combat strike Oct. 27, when it fired a Hellfire missile over Deh Rawod, Afghanistan, neutralizing enemy combatants.



Staff Sgt. Brian Ferguson/USAF

A fully armed MQ-9 Reaper taxis down an Afghanistan runway Nov. 4. The Reaper has flown 49 combat sorties since it first began operating in Afghanistan on Sept. 25. It completed its first combat strike Oct. 27, when it fired a Hellfire missile over Deh Rawod, Afghanistan.

# Chiefs retire with honors

Atwell, Wagner had half-century of experience

Two highly respected members of the 123rd Airlift Wing retired this summer, taking with them more than 50 years of combined military experience.

Chief Master Sgt. Sheila Atwell first joined the military in May of 1981 and held a variety of posts through the years, including non-commissioned officer in charge of base services. She last served as airfield manager in the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Operations Support Flight.



Chief Master Sgt.

Robert Wagner joined the U.S. Navy in 1967 and served as a Seabee in Da Nang, Vietnam, during his six-year enlistment. He then took an 11-year hiatus from military service before joining the Kentucky Air Guard in 1984, where he remained until retirement. Chief Wagner's last assignment was NCOIC of personnel at KyANG state headquarters.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Dennis Flora/KyANG

Both Airmen were presented with Air Force Meritorious Service Medals during retirement ceremonies held on base.

Chief Wagner's was presented by Brig. Gen. Michael Dornbush, KyANG chief of staff, on Aug. 11 (above left); while Chief Atwell's was presented May 21 by Col. Ken Dale, commander of the 123rd Operations Group (above right).

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